

U.S. Appln. No. 09/492,044
Reply to Office Action dated November 2, 2006

PATENT
450100-02278

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A free storage space management apparatus in a broadcasting apparatus ~~for generating a stream with a unique identifier when a recording area is successfully secured,~~ comprising:

recording means for recording information which includes information relating to free storage space of the recording means; and

control means for recording information in the recording means and for acquiring the information relating to the free storage space of the recording means,

wherein the control means selects the recording means by generating a list in which the recording means are arranged in decreasing order of free storage space, comparing a storage space consumption amount to free storage space values of all the recording means, and determining whether there exists a recording means having an unused port,

wherein said control means selects the recording means having an unused port with the most free storage space greater than the storage space consumption amount.

wherein the control means generates a stream with a unique identifier upon successfully securing a recording area in the selected recording means, and

wherein said stream is discarded upon release of said free storage space and said unique identifier cannot be used again.

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2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The free storage space management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when a discrepancy occurs between the information relating to the free storage space of the recording means and management information relating to free storage space in the control means, the control means synchronizes the management information relating to free storage space in the control means with the information relating to the free storage space of the recording means.

4. (Previously Presented) The free storage space management apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the recording means includes a plurality of recording means, and wherein when an operation of securing a recording area in one of the plurality of recording means in response to a command from the control means has resulted in a failure, the control means secures a recording area in another of the plurality of recording means in accordance with a reason for the failure.

5. (Currently Amended) A free storage space management method in a broadcasting apparatus ~~for generating a stream with a unique identifier when a recording area is successfully secured, comprising the steps of:~~

acquiring information relating to free storage space of recording means;
generating a list in which the recording means are arranged in decreasing order of free storage space;

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comparing a storage space consumption amount to free storage space values of each of the recording means;

determining whether there exists a recording means having an unused port;

Selecting the recording means having an unused port with the most free storage space greater than the storage space consumption amount;

generating a stream with a unique identifier upon successfully securing a recording area in the selected recording means; and

discarding said stream upon release of said free storage space.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The free storage space management method according to claim 5, wherein when a discrepancy occurs between the information relating to the free storage space of the recording means and management information relating to free storage space in a control means, the control means synchronizes the management information relating to free storage space.

8. (Previously Presented) The free storage space management method according to claim 7, wherein the recording means includes a plurality of recording means, and wherein when an operation of securing a recording area in one of the plurality of recording means in response to a command from the control means has resulted in a failure, the control means secures a recording area in another of the plurality of recording means in accordance with a reason for the failure.

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9. (Previously Presented) The free storage space management method according to claim 5, wherein a control means temporarily secures a recording area in second information relating to free storage space but does not change a value of the information relating to the free storage space of the recording means.

10. (Original) The free storage space management method according to claim 9, wherein when there is a difference between the tentatively secured recording area and a recording area that has been used actually by the control means, the control means synchronizes the second information relating to free storage space with the information relating to the free storage space of the recording means.